

Address delivered by Hon. John E. Fogarty, MC from Second Rhode Island Congressional District, over Station WJAR, Friday, October 18, 1946.

Several years ago the late President Roosevelt called upon all the citizens of this great land to join hands in an all out endeavor to prepare the defenses of the country - so that we should be well equipped in the event that war struck.

You will remember that many great obstacles had to be overcome before the National Defense Program could be gotten under way. You will recall, also, that it took several years for American industry to reach maximum production. But when the inventive and industrial genius of this Republic got into high gear then the productive ability of our country caused the edification of our allies and brought horror and dismay to our enemies.

Only a little over a year ago we celebrated the victory which brought the war to a close and since then we have been concerned with converting our war production machinery to peace-time operations.

During the war - in addition to a determination to produce all the needed materiel - we possessed a spirit of unity and cooperation which swept the land. Never before in the history of any country was there a greater demonstration of unity of purpose and unity of effort.

Both elements contributed to the winning of the great war.

Both elements - the maximum use of our productive ability and a unity of effort and purpose among the country's citizens - will enable us to overcome the obstacles which now lie across the path of prosperity and peace.

No war in history ever left tranquility in its wake.

The last war was history's worst - so the problems and difficulties it left in its trail were history's greatest. These problems can't be put aside; they must be met and solved with justice to all, if we are to have the permanent peace among nations, and the prosperity at home, for which brave men fought and died.

The only real safeguard for that peace and prosperity lies in social justice enjoyed and cherished by a contented people. It is the achievement of social justice which should be the paramount objective of every citizen.

Since the closing days of the war - the energies of the Democratic Administration have been concentrated on the many problems which attend the orderly transition from War-time operations to the peace-time production of civilian needs.

The job - as you well know - was not an easy one. It was made more difficult by the deliberate obstructionism of the Republican Party.

In carrying out this most important function there is no question that the Administration made some mistakes. All of us humans run that risk. But, the important thing to remember is that the mistakes were made while the Administration was doing something.

The Democratic Administration tackled the problems and worked out their solution. It did not live in idleness and promise that all would be well "around the corner".

Today the great task of reconversion is practically completed. There are still some kinks to be worked out. There are still shortages in some lines, because the present demand is so much greater

than factories are able to produce.

But today there are 58 million people employed, and I am sure you will remember Republicans scoffing at the idea that there could be anywhere near sixty million jobs.

The factories and mills all over the country are humming and production has already exceeded pre-war levels.

Now our country faces the most prosperous period in its history and it lies within the power of the American people to determine whether that prosperity shall be directed toward the general welfare - or shall be used to further the ends of the Privileged few - who are quite willing to have their country embark upon another race between Boom and Bust.

All Americans shared in the sacrifices that were made necessary by the war. And every American home has been affected to some extent by the heartaches and sorrows which war always exacts from its victims.

Because this is so - every American has a right to the maximum possible enjoyment of the fruits of this great country's productive ability.

A Nation which can outdistance all the world in producing the means to destroy, certainly can better its own past performance in enabling its citizens to enjoy life.

The decision - whether to go forward to a better and more prosperous America for all its citizens - or to return to the Laissez Faire of Economic royalists when the citizens existed merely for the

purpose of exploitation - must be made by the people themselves on November 5th.

Senator Taft - the dominant figure in the Republican Party - has stated that he yearns for a return to the "old Fashioned conservatism" of 1900. He decries the importance of jobs and says that he can't see what difference it makes how many people are employed.

The Democratic Party believes that every American able and willing to work is worthy of a job at which he can earn enough to support his family - and enable them to enjoy some of the pleasures of life.

I submit to you, the voters of Rhode Island, that a Progressive Minded Congress is absolutely essential if we are to have progress.

The Republican Party, through Senator Taft's National Chairman, has claimed that it is the Liberal Party in the United States.

I admit the Republican Party has had some progressive and liberal representatives in the Congress, but what has happened to them?

One of them was Charles LaFollette who represented a Congressional District in Indiana. Congressman LaFollette voted for and worked for progressive legislation. His own party denied the country the benefit of this Congressman's ability when the GOP machine turned its guns on him and defeated him in the primaries early this year.

A Republican liberal was Joseph Clark Baldwin of New York. He incurred the wrath of the GOP machine by supporting progressive measures, and for that reason he was marked for oblivion. He was defeated in the Republican primary by a Wall Street lawyer.

I think almost everyone has heard of Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon - a liberal and progressive Republican. He was not up for renomination this time, but, he spoke of the Commander-in-Chief of the Republican Party in these words - "Senator Taft demonstrated in a frightening manner why the common men and women of America cannot look to reactionary Republicans".

An outstanding member of the United States Senate for twenty years was Young Bob LaFollette of Wisconsin, a genuine progressive and a most able Senator. This year he sought the GOP nomination for another term. But, because he had been aggressive in his support of liberal and progressive legislation he was doomed to defeat and political obscurity. And the lesson learned by LaFollette might well be remembered by all progressive minded Americans.

It isn't mere coincidence that finds these men washed out of political life by the Republican Party. They are some of the victims of the Machine's determination that there must be nothing progressive or liberal about the appearance and conduct of the Republican Party.

Once before this country faced a proud and prosperous period. At the close of the first World War we stood on the threshold of a new era. At that time - wearied over the tribulations of a bloody war - deliberately misled by the Republican opponents of World Cooperation - the people of the United States turned to the Republican Party for leadership.

Harding brought the Ohio gang to Washington and to the nation's everlasting shame there began a systematic destruction of the country's economy and a wicked plundering of its resources.

For the thrifty - the Republican Party provided closed banks and worthless stocks.

For the businessmen - the Republican Party provided closed mills, idle factories and bankrupt corporations.

For the veteran - it provided apples and a free license to freeze on windy street-corners.

For the working man - it provided poverty, hunger and desperation.

A progressive administration came into Washington in the depth of the worst depression in history. It brought sobriety and industry to Washington. It provided security, prosperity and confidence for all Americans.

The work of building a better future for all our citizens was interrupted by the outbreak of War. The task must be resumed and I submit to you that only a Democratic Administration will welcome the task.

Every citizen is entitled to look with confidence and faith upon his nation's government. He should be able to count on his Government functioning for his welfare and not against it. He has a right to expect that his Government will put itself out to make sure that he has a job at a decent wage; that he need not fear another depression with its attendant unemployment and poverty. Every citizen in this Democracy should be able to look forward to a secure old age - free from the fear that he will have to spend his declining years trespassing on the charity of relatives or strangers.

The Republican Party believes we have come far enough along the

road of progress. They appeal for a return to the good old days. The Democratic Party believes this country can be made better. We do not fear the future. We have confidence in its ability to grow and prosper. We believe every citizen can be secure in his enjoyment of the privileges and benefits provided by our Democracy.

This nation possesses tremendous productive ability. That ability must be directed toward the welfare of all the citizens of the country.

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